# THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE 1848-1849 CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Móra Ferenc Museum of Csongrád County, the Arad Museum and the Institute of Military History united their efforts to present European cultural diversity, to preserve and put on display culturally valuable object and to inventory the collection of the former Relic Museum of Arad. This joint is part of the strategic cooperation between the counties of Csongrád and Arad: Hungary-Romania Cross-Border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013.

Hungarian and Romanian experts from Csongrád and Arad engaged to carry out the conservation, restoration and systematization of the collection, the editing of publications, document collections and documentation related to the collection.
Thanks to their constructive co-operation and research activity, the collection is presented to the public through several exhibitions, including approximately 200 mainly restored artefacts.

**HURO/0801/029 _ AREMU**
**"Conservation and Digitalisation of the Collection of the Relic Museum Arad**
**HURO/0901/237"**
**"Making the closed collection of relics of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence accessible to the public"**

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George Enescu Square 1, 310131 Arad
www.museumarad.ro
*touching history*

The Arad Museum is founder member

RETEAUA NATIONALĂ A MUZEELOR DIN ROMÂNIA

## Exhibition

# THESAURUS 1848/49
# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RELICS COLLECTION OF THE ARAD MUSEUM

**Cultural Palace, halls M10/13**
**George Enescu Sq 1**
**(entrance from Children`s Park)**

**Open daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
**Closed on Mondays**

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# THE RELICS COLLECTION

Arad is strongly connected to the memory of the Hungarian Revolution. Led by sentiments of local patriotism, the Hungarian intellectuals from Arad made a consequent research work in order to reveal the events, memories and documents of the War of Independence.

At the initiative of the historians Márki Sándor, Dőmőtőr László, with the support of history teacher Varga Ottó and Várjássy Árpád (manager of Cultural Palace in 1913), the Museum Committee of the Kőlcsey Association of Arad was set up in 1891. The collection quickly gained nationwide fame and became one of the most important collection in the Empire, under the name "National Museum of the Relics of the War of Independence".

The Museum Arad was opened in 1893, as an exhibition of Relics of the Revolution from 1848, in the lobby of the local theatre. Two decades later, the museum was moved into the new built Cultural Palace (1913), along with the philharmonic and town library. After 1918, the exhibition of Relics was left in the same place, and even survived intact until the beginning of the communist regime. From the mid-60s, the artefacts of the collection were deposited in the museum storerooms and became partially accessible to the public hardly after 1990s.

**THE 13 MARTYRS OF ARAD, LITHOGRAPHY BY MIKLÓS BARABÁS**

**THE EXECUTION BY HANGING OF THE HUNGARIAN MARTYRS, 6 OCTOBER 1849**

Vécsey Károly, Leiningen-Westerburg Károly, Török Ignác, Nagy Sándor József, Aulich Lajos, Knezic Károly, Poeltenberg Ernő, Láhner György and Damjanich János

**EXECUTIONS OF THE FOUR MARTYRS IN THE FORT`S DITCH, 6 OCTOBER 1849**

The large size painting was painted by Horváth József and represents the moment from the dawn of 6 October 1849, when the commander of the execution platoon orders fire with raised sword in the ditch of the Arad fortress.

Generals Lázár Vilmos, Desewffy Arisztid and Schweidel József are already lying dead, while Kiss Ernő, wounded at his shoulder, stands on one knee awaiting for the "coup de grâce".

# THE THESAURUS EXHIBITION

The collection of the 1848/49 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence relics represents a heritage of great importance and interest for the Hungarians either from Romania, Hungary, or from abroad.

After a long process of conservation, restorations systematization and research, the collection was presented to the public, through several exhibitions, opened in Arad, Szeged, Budapest, Pécs.

At the 125th Anniversary of the Liberty Statue in October 2015, the Arad Museum has opened the highly-appreciated exhibition, "Thesaurus", containing the powerful relics of the Hungarian heroes of the Independence War. Among them, there are relics of the generals - personal objects of Damjanich János, the giant pipe of Desewffy Arisztid, Lázár Vilmos`s golden ring, Vécsey Károly`s hunting horn, the parade sword of Aulich Lajos, Kiss Ernő`s kit of dueling pistols, the urn of heart of Count Leiningen-Westerburg Károly - all executed near the fortress, on 6th October 1849.

Besides, the exhibition contains relics of revolutionary leader, Kossuth Lajos and Szalcz Gyula, Mayor of Arad (1876-1901). Several relics of the officers from Hungarian Army, prisoners in Arad Fortress - Major Parchetich Húgó, who has drawn the portraits of his comrades during captivity in the fortress of Arad (1849-1855), the portrait of General Gaál Miklós, General Pikéty Gusztáv`s cigar case carved during his detention in Arad - complete the exhibition, along with numerous unique or commonly used items from the Hungarian Revolution, or made later in the prison of the Arad fortress.

**THE PARADE SWORD OF GENERAL DAMJANICH JÁNOS**

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